

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

In reply to the Office Action, dated 10 November 2009, the Applicant proposes claim amendments. Attached please find a proposed claim set. These claims have been marked up to show amendments of the previously presented claims.

Support for these amendments are found in the specification as filed (United States Application 10/575,846, publication number US 2007/0017384). In particular, amendments of independent claim 16 are supported, *inter alia*, and with reference to US 2007/0017384, by:

Claim 20	"20. A combination sandwich press and grill device having a lower housing with a lower cooking surface and an upper housing with an upper cooking surface, the upper and lower housings being interconnected by a hinge, wherein: <u>the upper housing has a closed orientation, a fully open orientation and an intermediate and locked orientation</u> , the device positionable into the fully open orientation <u>only upon activation of a hinge locking mechanism</u> that is carried by the hinge that interconnects the upper and lower housings."
[0008]	"a full length drip tray collects run off from both the upper and lower cooking surfaces when the toaster grill is in the fully open grill orientation."

CLAIM REJECTION – 35 USC §102

The Examiner has raised a rejection against claims 16, 18-20, 22-23, 27 and 30, concluding that the claimed inventions are anticipated by *Chen* (United States Patent No. 6,433,312).

The Applicant respectfully submits that the invention, as defined in the amended independent claim 16, is distinguished from the teaching of *Chen* and would not be obvious